

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-10 EA-07 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-10 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-14 USIA-04 IO-03 SAM-01 SAJ-01 NIC-01 DRC-01 /077 W

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R 100818Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY DACCA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4534

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

USLO PEKING

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

C O N F I D E N T I A L DACCA 4608

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, BG, PK, CH

SUBJ: BANGLADESH'S RELATIONS WITH PAKISTAN AND CHINA

REF: ISLAMABAD'S 9620; DACCA 3592 AND 4505

1. FOREIGN SECRETARY FAKHRUDDIN AHMED TOLD ME YESTERDAY THAT THERE HAS BEEN NO SUBSTANTIAL MOVEMENT RECENTLY IN RECONCILIATION WITH PAKISTAN. LAST THING THEY HAD HEARD WAS BHUTTO'S REPORTED STATEMENT TO SOVIET AMBASSADOR ABOUT A MONTH AGO THAT HE "WOULD TAKE AN INITIATIVE AT THE APPROPRIATE TIME," BUT THERE HAD BEEN NO INITIATIVE SO FAR. NEITHER HAD PAKISTAN REPLIED TO FOREIGN MINISTER KAMAL HOSSAIN'S LETTER TO MINISTER OF STATE AZIZ (DACCA'S 3592) PROPOSING THAT PRELIMINARY TALKS BE HELD AT THE OFFICIAL LEVEL TO PINPOINT OR REFINE ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION BY MUJIB AND BHUTTO AT THEIR SECOND SUMMIT. CONSEQUENTLY, FOREIGN SECRETARY SAID, THERE WERE NO PLANS AT THE MOMENT FOR THE PRIMIN TO VISIT ISLAMABAD.

2. ON CHINA, FOREIGN SECRETARY SAID THAT THIS TOO REMAINED ABOUT WHERE IT HAD BEEN FOR A FEW MONTHS. BANGLADESH REPRESENTATIVES  
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HAD TOLD CHINESE THAT THERE WAS NO BAR ON THE BANGLADESH SIDE TO

NORMALIZATION AND HAD ASKED THE CHINESE TO LET THEM KNOW WHERE AND WHEN TALKS COULD BE HELD TO DISCUSS THE QUESTION OF RELATIONS. THE CHINESE REPRESENTATIVES IN NEW YORK AND WASHINGTON, ALTHOUGH ALWAYS VERY FRIENDLY, SIMPLY REPLIED THAT THEY HAD NO INSTRUCTIONS.

3. FOREIGN SECRETARY SAID HE THOUGHT CHINESE WERE NOW TAKING A SOMEWHAT TOUGHER STAND ON INDIA IN LIGHT OF SIKKIM DEVELOPMENT, FOR EXAMPLE, AND HE INTIMATED THIS MIGHT ALSO HAVE IMPLICATIONS FOR BANGLADESH. HE SAID CHINA'S DELAY IN MOVING ON BANGLADESH STEMMED FAIRLY OBVIOUSLY FROM ITS RELATIONSHIP WITH PAKISTAN AND ITS DESIRE NOT TO ISOLATE ISLAMABAD BY SETTING UP RELATIONS WITH DACCA BEFORE THE PAKISTANIS HAD. JUDGING FROM THE PROMISING TONE OF CONVERSATIONS WITH CHINESE REPRESENTATIVES EARLIER IN THE YEAR, FOREIGN SECRETARY SAID HE WAS PERSUADED THAT CHINESE HAD EXPECTED THESE MATTERS TO MOVE MUCH FASTER THAN THEY HAD AND THAT CHINESE MUST HAVE EXPECTED A RATHER DIFFERENT RESULT FROM BHUTTO'S VISIT TO DACCA.

COMMENT: FOREIGN SECRETARY'S CITATION OF CONVERSATION BETWEEN BHUTTO AND SOVIET AMBASSADOR AS HIS SOURCE FOR LATEST POSITION REPORT ON BANGLADESH-PAKISTANI RELATIONSHIP, TAKEN TOGETHER WITH SOVIET CONTACTS WITH PAKISTAN FOREIGN MINISTRY REPORTED IN ISLAMABAD'S 9620, IS ANOTHER INDICATION THAT SOVIETS, WHILE NOT "MEDIATING" QUESTION OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES, MAY BE TRYING HARD TO SERVE AS THE CHANNEL OF COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN DACCA AND ISLAMABAD.  
BOSTER

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